



Bally Ground Water Contamination Site Bally Borough, Berks County, PA

SUPERFUND UPDATE

January 2004

EPA continues to provide updated information to customers using the Borough of Bally municipal water system and to other interested members of the public about the ongoing work to address 1,4-dioxane discovered in February 2003.

Progress To Date

- ✓ American Household Inc. (AHI) completed surveys to find the best place for a new municipal supply well.
- ✓ AHI identified several areas that may be good locations for a new municipal supply well.
- ✓ For each of these promising well locations, AHI is negotiating additional site access with individual property owners.
- ✓ AHI will complete an "aquifer pump test" at one or more of the sites to find out how much water is available and determine the quality of the water.

Treating the 1,4-Dioxane

Tests were completed by AHI to find out if the 1,4-dioxane found in the municipal water system can be reduced to levels that are safe to drink.

Based on the test results, AHI told EPA that treatment of 1,4-dioxane to safe levels does not appear to be possible because of harmful byproducts formed when AHI tried to reduce the levels of 1,4-dioxane. As a result, AHI has concerns about the reliability of the treatment technology.

EPA will review the test results carefully and evaluate them for accuracy before making a final decision whether to treat the 1,4-dioxane.

Background

- February 2003: 1,4-dioxane was found in groundwater at the Bally Superfund Site and in the Borough of Bally's municipal water system.
- March 2003: EPA held public meetings to answer questions from the community, and AHI committed to explore options for dealing with the 1,4-dioxane contamination in the municipal water system.
- The options to resolve the 1,4-dioxane issue included finding a new supply well, and/or treating water from the existing municipal supply well.
- September 30, 2003: EPA and AHI signed an official agreement called an Administrative Order on Consent to:
 - 1. Continue monitoring for 1,4-dioxane.

AR500022

2. Complete a study, called a Focused Feasibility Study (FFS), to decide how to best address 1,4-dioxane in the Borough's water system.

3. Continue to provide bottled water to residents who request it.

4. Provide EPA with monthly updates regarding the progress of the FFS.

5. As part of the FFS, evaluate the feasibility of installing a new supply well and treating the current supply well for 1,4-dioxane.

EPA will continue to oversee AHI's work throughout the process.

Next Steps

✓ EPA will review the data collected by AHI regarding the installation of a new municipal supply well and the treatment of the existing supply well.

✓ After EPA reviews the data, a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) will be completed. The PRAP will present AHI's findings and explain EPA's preferred plan to resolve the 1,4-dioxane issue

at the Bally Superfund Site.

✓ The PRAP will be available for public comment and EPA will hold a public meeting to get input on the PRAP. The PRAP is likely to be ready for comment by late 2004.

For More Information...

about this Site and the ongoing work, please contact either of the following EPA representatives:

Carrie Deitzel
Community Involvement Coordinator
215-814-5525 or
1-800-553-2509
deitzel.carrie@epa.gov

Mitch Cron
Remedial Project Manager
215-814-3286
cron.mitch@epa.gov

Or visit our website:
www.epa.gov/superfund

Next Update:

Expect more information in Spring 2004.

US Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029
Attn: C. Deitzel 3HS43

BALLY GROUND WATER CONTAMINATION SUPERFUND UPDATE

AR500023